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Senate Bills 1388 and 1389 (as reported without amendment)
Sponsor: Senator Wayne Kuipers
Committee: Judiciary

CONTENT

Senate Bill 1388 would amend the DNA Identification Profiling System Act to require the State Police Forensic Laboratory to dispose of a DNA sample or identification profile under specific circumstances; and provide that an identification, arrest, or conviction would not be invalidated if particular errors occurred in good faith.

The bill would require the State Police Forensic Laboratory to dispose of a DNA sample or a DNA identification profile, or both, if either of the following circumstances occurred:

- The Michigan Department of State Police (MSP) received a written request for disposal from the investigating police agency or prosecutor indicating that the sample or profile was no longer necessary for a criminal investigation or criminal prosecution.
- The MSP received a written request for disposal and a certified copy of a final court order establishing that the charge for which the sample was obtained had been dismissed or had resulted in an acquittal or that no charge was filed within the applicable limitations period.

This disposal requirement would not apply if the MSP determined that the individual from whom the sample was taken had otherwise become obligated to submit a sample, or if a provision allowing the MSP to retain evidence (described below) applied.

The bill specifies that, notwithstanding any other provision of the Act, the MSP would not be required to dispose of physical evidence or data obtained from a sample if evidence relating to an individual other than the one from whom the sample was taken would be destroyed and the evidence or data relating to the other individual would otherwise be retained under the Act.

Under the bill, an identification, warrant, detention, arrest, conviction, or probable cause to arrest based upon a DNA match or DNA information would not be invalidated if it were later determined that one or more of the following errors occurred in good faith:

- A DNA sample was erroneously obtained.
- A DNA identification profile was erroneously retained.
- A DNA sample was not disposed of or there was a delay in disposing of the sample.
- A DNA identification profile was not disposed of or there was a delay in disposing of the profile.

The Act defines "DNA identification profile" as the results of the DNA identification profiling of a sample. The bill would add, "including a paper, electronic, or digital record".

Senate Bill 1389 would amend the Code of Criminal Procedure to specify that otherwise-admissible evidence based on a DNA sample or identification profile would not be made

inadmissible because it had been retained in violation of the DNA Identification Profiling System Act.

The bill is tie-barred to Senate Bill 1388.

MCL 28.172 & 28.176 (S.B. 1388)
Proposed MCL 776.28 (S.B. 1389)

Legislative Analyst: Patrick Affholter

FISCAL IMPACT

The bills would have no fiscal impact on State or local government.

Date Completed: 11-13-08

Fiscal Analyst: Bruce Baker
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This analysis was prepared by nonpartisan Senate staff for use by the Senate in its deliberations and does not constitute an official statement of legislative intent.